

treatment center that can help many children who are emotionally disturbed, behaviorally challenged or socially maladjusted. Through the residential component of the treatment regiment, children develop social skills and learn to positively interact with others. Children also benefit from the educational opportunities provided by the Learning Center because every student's educational experience is designed to personally suit his or her needs and to complement his or her learning style. The extensive outdoor learning opportunities, coupled with access to computers, help to provide balanced, quality learning. In addition, family therapy is a prominent feature at the Home because it is crucial to facilitate effective interaction between children and their families.

All of these wonderful features contribute to the successful completion of the Children's Home goal of "returning each child to his or her community with a more positive attitude." For 100 years, the Children's Home has succeeded in its endeavor and has positively contributed to the lives of its residents.

One such former resident who symbolized the success of the Children's Home was John Russell Bergendahl. Known to his friends as Russ or "Red," John Bergendahl honored the Cromwell Children's Home, the state of Connecticut and our nation by his service in World War II. An only child whose parents died when he was a boy, Russ became a resident of the Cromwell Children's Home in 1932. The supportive environment at the Home enabled him to overcome his tragedy and live with a positive attitude. Russ quickly developed an outgoing personality that was complimented by his physical and mental discipline. As Russ matured, he became a model resident of the home, owing much to the caring environment and dedicated staff.

During high school, Russ excelled in athletics at Middletown High School and even played on the Cromwell town baseball team. Upon graduating from Middletown High School, he enlisted in the military to fight for his country in World War II. John entered military training and was assigned to the 504th Parachute Infantry Unit (PIR) of the 82nd Airborne Division. His unit fought courageously throughout Northern Africa and Italy during the early years of the War. The 504th's ranks were so depleted from these battles that they were retained as a reserve unit and did not participate in the D-Day invasion.

However, John was one of only 50 volunteers of the 504th to serve as pathfinders on D-Day. His 50-man unit courageously preceded the main airborne divisions behind enemy lines to protect the vulnerable beach landings and to prevent an enemy counterattack. John did not survive this hazardous mission and died serving his country on June 6, 1944. His death was undoubtedly heroic although the exact circumstances can not be verified. He is buried alongside

his fellow pathfinders at the United States Military Cemetery at Omaha Beach.

On this, the 100th anniversary of the Cromwell Children's Home, it is only right that we recognize this special institution. As the story of John Russell Bergendahl demonstrates, the Cromwell Children's Home has nurtured a number of remarkable Americans, many of whom have served with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces. But whether its residents go on to become heroes or just good neighbors and positive members of the Community, the Cromwell Children's Home is making an important difference. I hope the case of John Russell Bergendahl serves as an inspiration to the past and future residents of the Cromwell Children's Home and that they understand that their lives and their potential are limitless. Once again, I congratulate the Cromwell Children's Home on this 100th anniversary and I encourage them to carry forward the good work for another 100 years.●

IN RECOGNITION OF REVEREND NICK HALL, JR.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable person from my home state of Michigan, Reverend Nick Hall Jr. On July 23, Rev. Hall will retire after 48 years of service to the Bethesda Baptist Church in Saginaw.

Reverend Hall's history of public service is truly deserving of recognition. After serving his country in the Navy during World War II, he received his Bachelor of Theology from the Chicago Baptist Institute in 1950. He then moved to Saginaw, Michigan and organized the Bethesda Baptist Church in 1952, where he has ministered there for nearly five decades. In 1990, he furthered his studies in Theology by earning his Doctor of Divinity from Urban Bible College in Detroit. In addition to his career in the ministry, Rev. Hall has dedicated himself to civic leadership through his work with many community organizations. From civil rights activist to County Commissioner, he has won many hats in his long public career, but all of them have shown a true dedication to his community. For the last 48 years, Rev. Hall has served with integrity and compassion.

Rev. Hall's departure from Bethesda Baptist Church will certainly mark a new chapter in his life. I can only hope it is as successful as this previous one. Though I am sure he will remain active in his many church and community activities, I hope that he will be able to spend more time with his wife, Marie, and their children and grandchildren. I am pleased to join his family, congregation, and friends in offering my thanks for all he has done.

Mr. President, Reverend Nick Hall, Jr. can take pride in his long and honorable career to Bethesda Baptist Church. I hope my colleagues will join

me in saluting Rev. Hall's commitment to his community and religion, and in wishing him well in his retirement.●

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP IN FRANKLIN COUNTY, VERMONT

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Franklin County, Vermont, one of five counties recently honored with the 2000 Community of Excellence Award from the organization Communities Can!

Franklin County is a small, sparsely populated area in northwestern Vermont. This county's close proximity to Lake Champlain and its rolling hills make it ideal for agriculture. In fact, the county has long been known as a state leader in dairy and maple syrup production. As with many rural areas, Franklin County has limited resources, but with the innovation and sense of community responsibility that has characterized Vermonters for centuries, leaders in the community have established a comprehensive network of educators, health care providers, and mental health workers to coordinate vital services for area children.

Communities Can! is a network of communities committed to ensuring that all children and families, including those with disabilities and special needs, have the services and support they need. Franklin County has been a part of this exemplary collaboration since its inception. Each year the organization recognizes five counties from across the country with the Community of Excellence Award. In order to be eligible for this prestigious award, a county must show that it identifies young children and families in need of services; provides affordable, convenient assistance; and includes family members in all levels of decision making. Receiving this award is a significant achievement.

It takes strong teamwork to bring all of these essential human services together to improve the lives of children and their families in a community. Thanks to the work of Mark Sustic, Coordinator of Early Childhood Programs; Peggy Durgin, Early Intervention/Team Coordinator; Paula Irish, Mental Health and Disabilities Coordinator for Head Start; Pam McCarthy, Director of the Family Center; and Tracey Wagner, Chair of the Regional Interagency Coordinating Council, children and families in Franklin County receive the support and services they need to develop and flourish. I had the pleasure of meeting these remarkable community leaders this spring when they came to Washington to receive their award. These dedicated Vermonters make the most of the limited resources in their rural county by coordinating a comprehensive set of services including pre-kindergarten education, health care, parent education, special needs services, day care, and prenatal care.